

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

REBECCA A. GORDEE,

ORDER GRANTING STAY

Respondent

On September 12, 1996, the Board of Nursing issued its Final Decision and Order in the above-captioned matter. By the terms of the board's order, respondent's license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in Wisconsin was revoked, based upon the board's finding that Ms. Gordee had diverted hydromorphone from her employer, U.W. Hospital and Clinics, for the purpose of selling it.

By letter dated July 24, 1998, Ms. Gordee petitioned the board to reinstate her license, and she appeared before the board on September 18, 1998, in support of her petition. The board considered the matter on that date, and denied the petition by its Order dated September 28, 1998. The board's Order specified that "Should Ms. Gordee submit to the board a current drug and alcohol assessment establishing whether or not, in the opinion of the assessor, Ms. Gordee is able to safely and competently return to the practice of nursing, she may renew her petition at that time."

On March 5, 1999, the board considered the results of an assessment on October 23, 1998, by John C. Pundt, MS, CAPSW, CADCII, of Newstart. Based upon that evaluation, and upon other information of record herein, the board ordered that the license be granted for a period of three months, with provision for additional three month renewals of the license conditioned upon Ms. Gordee's arranging for submission to the board of quarterly formal written reports to the Department Monitor in the Department of Regulation and Licensing, assessing Respondent's work performance.

On September 1, 2000, the board considered Ms. Gordee's petition for renewal of her license, along with her request that she be permitted to practice independently. As set forth in the definition of practical nursing at section 441.11(3) of the Wisconsin statutes, "the practice of practical nursing ... means the performance for compensation of any simple acts in the care of convalescent, subacutely or chronically ill, injured or infirm persons, or of any act or procedure in the care of the more acutely ill, injured or infirm under the specific direction of a nurse, physician, podiatrist licensed under ch. 448, dentist licensed under ch. 447 or optometrist licensed under ch. 449. . . ." Under that definition, a licensed practical nurse may not provide clinical nursing care independently, and the board is thus unable to grant permission to do so.

Accordingly, it is ordered as follows:

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the license of Rebecca Gordee, LPN, is hereby renewed for a period of three months.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Gordee's request for leave to practice practical nursing independently is denied.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2000.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BOARD OF NURSING

Ann Brewer, RN

Chair